MBTA Key Bus Route Improvement Program

Community Meeting
Route 1 - Boston

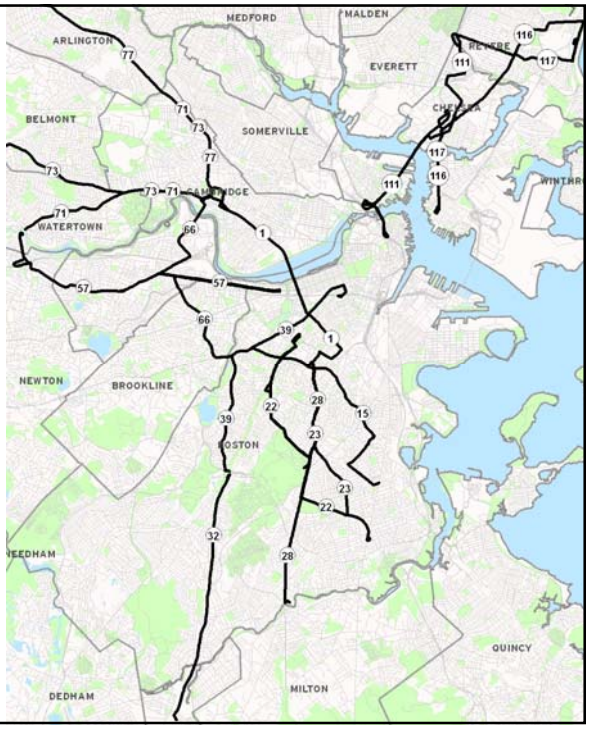
March 7, 2011
United South End Settlements

Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Safety briefing/Accommodations
- Key Bus Route Program overview
- Existing conditions
- Recommendations
- Next Steps
- Discussion

Introduction

- 15 Key Bus Routes
- $10 million funding



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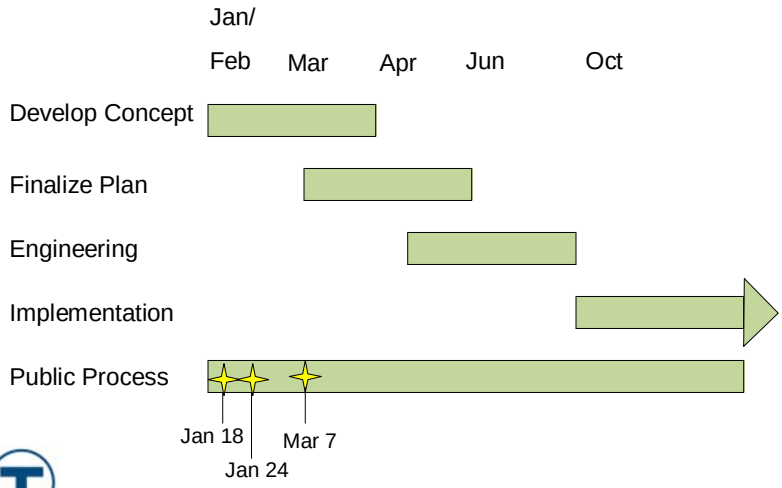
Project Schedule
Bus Route 1



Key Bus Route Goals

- **Reliability**
  - less bus bunching
- **Faster service**
  - fewer delays, less stops, shorter trip times
- **Improved accessibility**
  - for seniors and persons with disabilities
- **Passenger amenities**
  - shelters, benches, signage, trash barrels

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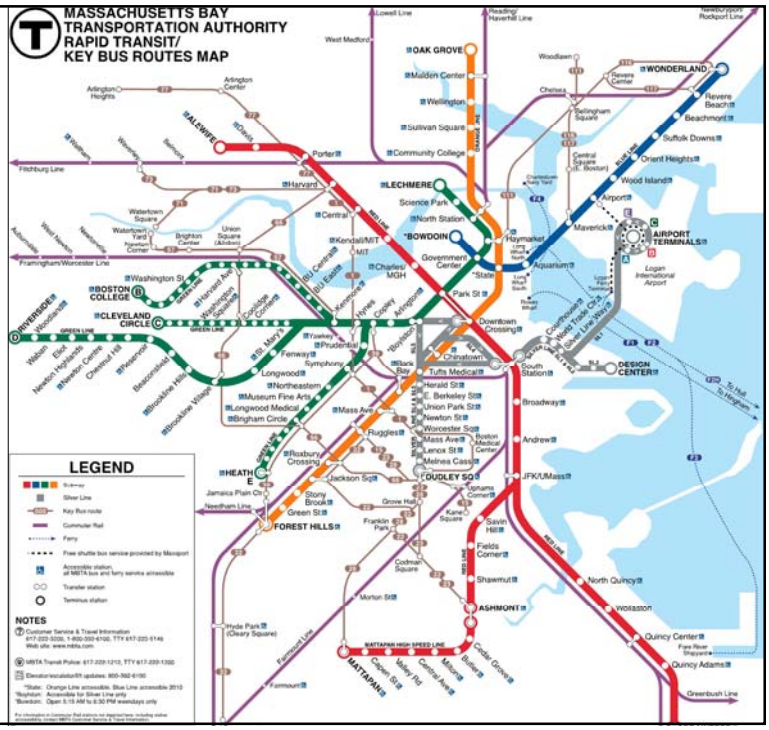
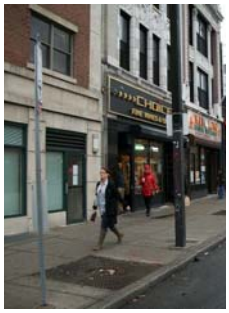
Key Bus Routes

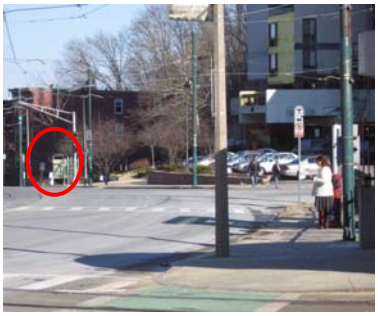


Typical Conditions

Bus stop too short



Poorly located boarding area



Bus stops too close

Signage issues

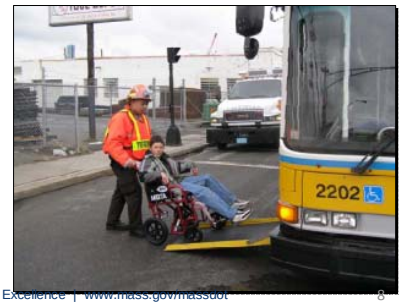
Improved Accessibility

Legal Mandate

- All bus doors must open at curb
- Deter cars from parking in stops

Providing accessible curb access requires longer bus stops

- Bus Stops must meet Current Guidelines for 40' buses



Farside – 60ft

Nearside – 80ft

Required Bus Stop Lengths

Midblock (or after left hand turn) – 100ft

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Reliability Issues

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Good bus stop locations:

- Sufficient length to pull to the curb
- Clear boarding/alighting area
- Not blocking crosswalks or driveways
- Proper Spacing
- Considerate of adjacent traffic

Factors for Improving Stop Locations

- Ridership – customer boardings and alightings
- Proximity to schools, medical centers etc
- Distance to adjacent stops
- Reducing traffic congestion
- Parking impacts
- Potential to add amenities – shelters, benches etc.

Bus Stop Spacing

- Ideal spacing is 4 - 7 stops per mile
  (every 750-1,320 ft)
  (4-6 minutes walking distance)
- Route 1 has stops as close as 260 ft

Bus Stop Consolidation

<u>Benefits</u>

- Shortens bus trip times
- Improves service reliability
- Minimizes “stop & go” experience
- Provides additional parking spaces
- Ability to provide better stop amenities

Traffic Signal Improvements

Improved Amenities

Shelters

Trash receptacles

Schedule tubes

Benches

Pavement markings

Improving Customer Information

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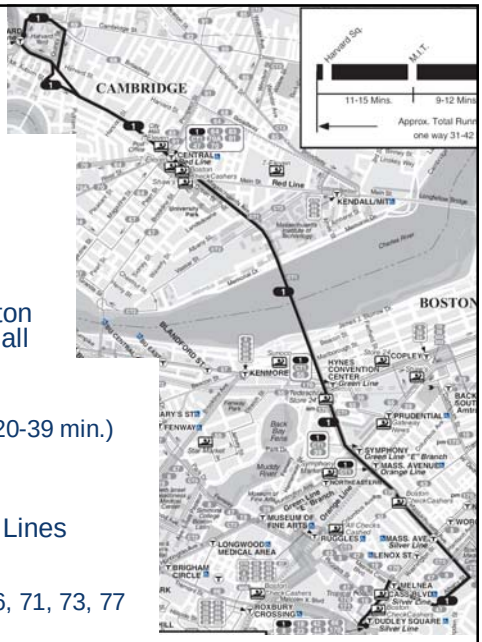
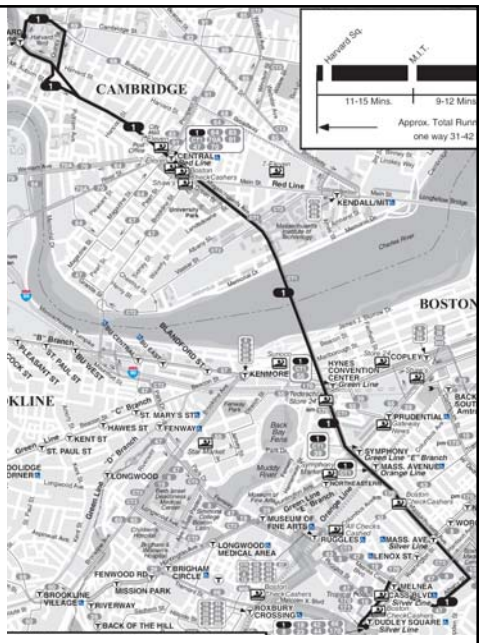
Route 1: Overview



- Harvard Square to Dudley Station
  - Via Mass Ave, Central Sq. Cambridge, and South End
  - Harvard University, MIT, Boston Medical Center, Symphony Hall
- 5 miles long
  - Run time varies by time of day (20-39 min.)
- Connects to:
  - Red, Green, Orange & Silver Lines
  - 30+ bus routes, including:
    - KBR – 15, 23, 28 ,39, 57, 66, 71, 73, 77

Route 1: Overview



- MBTA's 4th busiest route
  - Over 12,300 avg. daily boardings
- Peak Hour Headways
  - Every 7-9 minutes
- On-time performance
  - 65% weekdays

Source:MBTA's 2008 Biennial Service Plan

  - 69 stops
  - 35 inbound (to Dudley)
  - 34 outbound (to Harvard)

Revised
Preliminary
Recommendations

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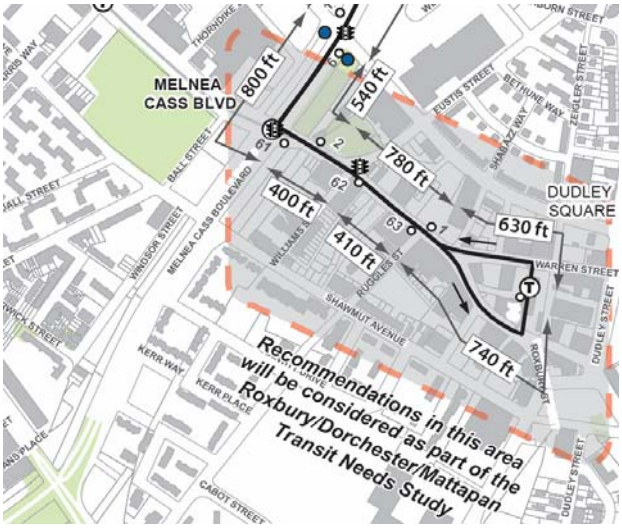
Dudley Square Area



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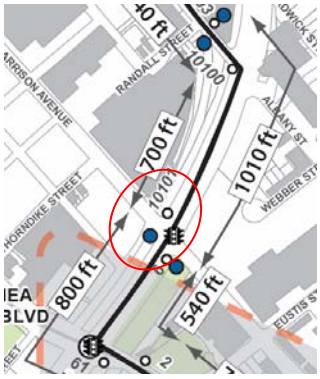
Melnea Cass @ Harrison Ave

Relocate stop farside, install concrete pad

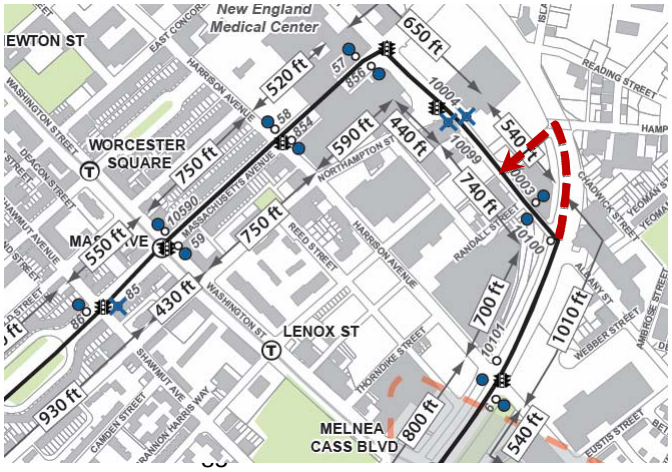


Albany St @ Northampton St

Remove stops to improve bus stop spacing and due to low ridership

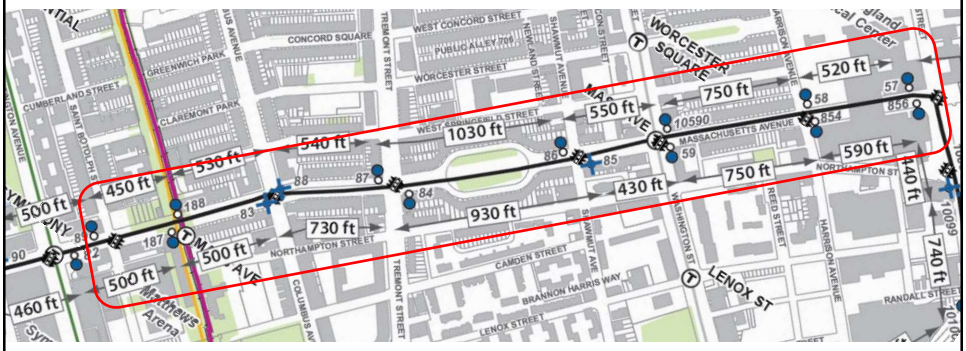
Albany Street

Consider outbound via Hampden St



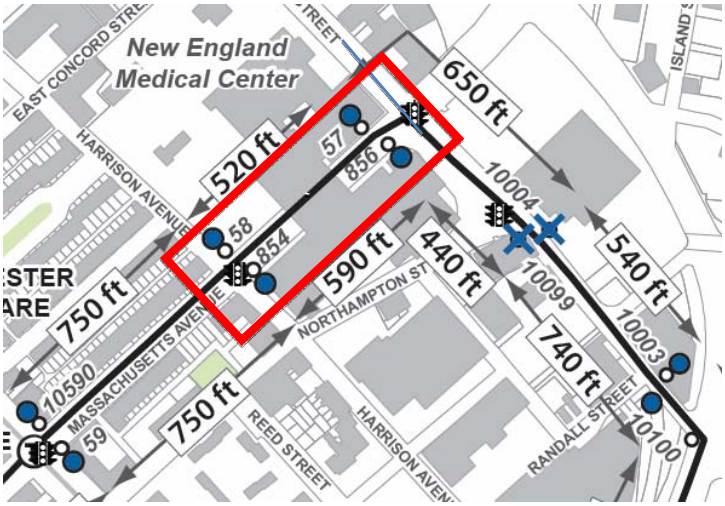
Mass Ave Reconstruction Area

St Botolph St to Albany St



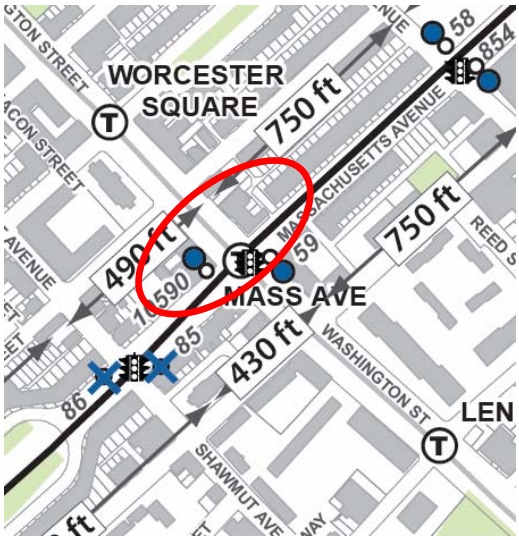
Mass Ave @ Harrison & Albany

Maintain both stops, despite close proximity.
Provide Improvements



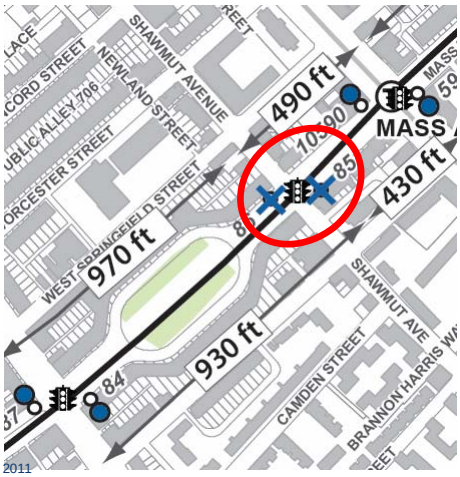
Mass Ave @ Washington St

Outbound Stop is far side at 7-11



Mass Ave @ Shawmut Ave

Remove IB and OB stops to provide better bus stop spacing.



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Mass Ave @ Columbus Ave

Remove inbound/outbound stops.
Relocate shelter.

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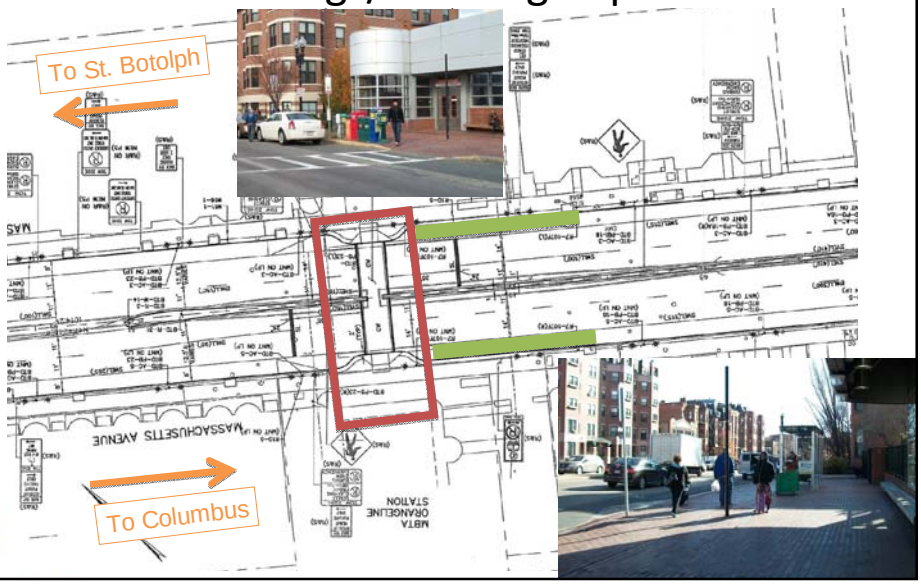
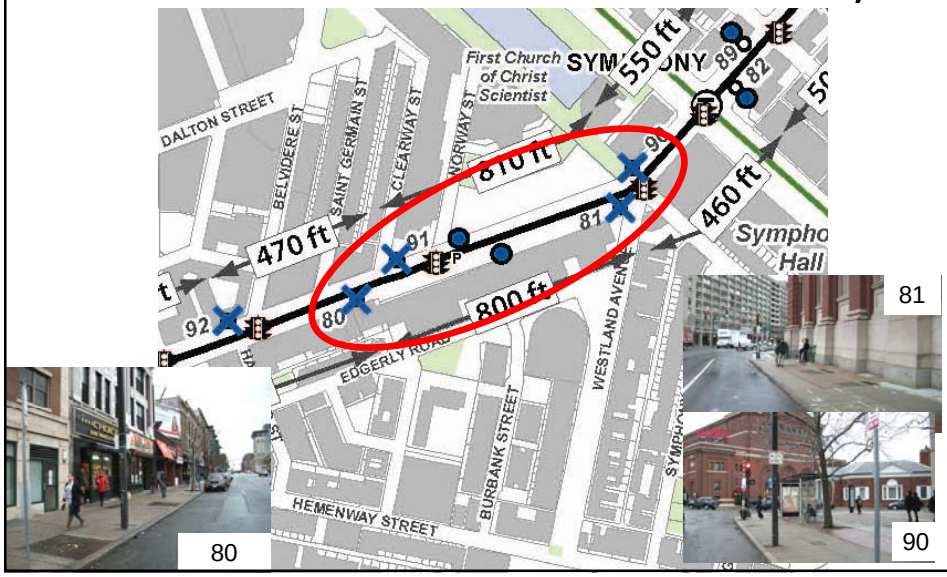
Mass Ave @ Mass Ave Station

Pavement markings/Crossing improvements.



Mass Ave @ Christian Science

Consolidate Westland Ave with Clearway St.



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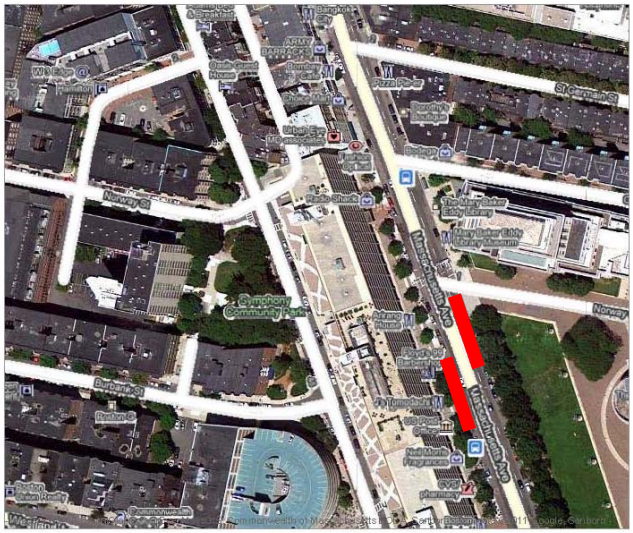
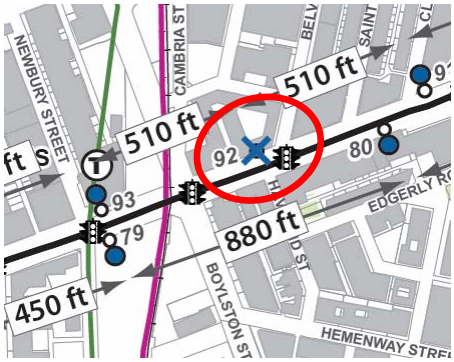


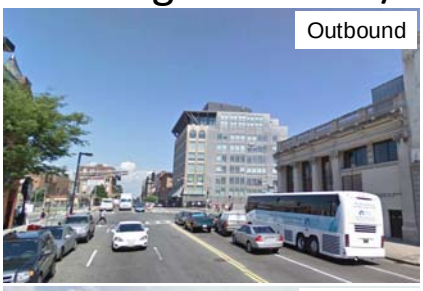
Mass Ave @ Belvidere St

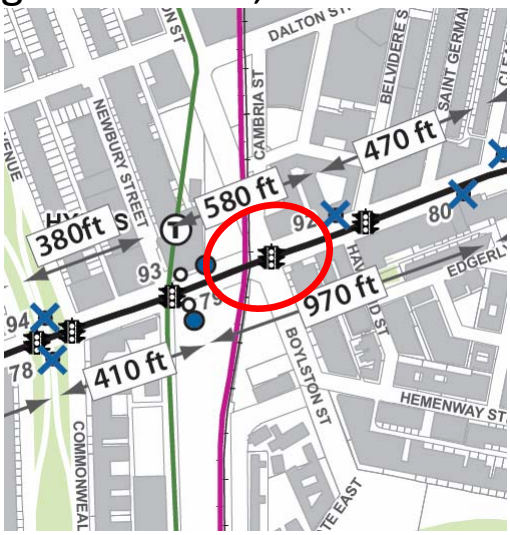
Remove stop to provide better bus stop spacing and improve pedestrian and vehicle flow.
Investigate signal improvements at Boylston St



Mass Ave @ Boylston Street

Investigate shared/right turn lane, TSP

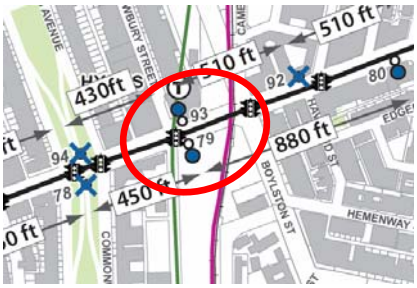




Mass Ave @ Hynes/Newbury St

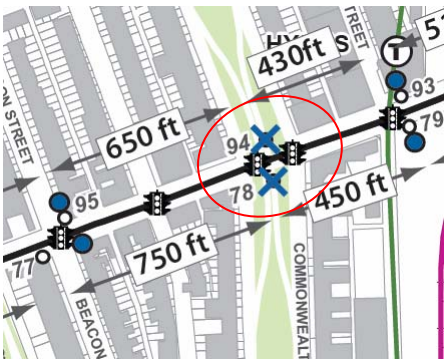
Investigate signal timing and bus lane.

Relocate OB stops closer to Green Line Station.



Mass Ave @ Comm Ave

Remove inbound/outbound stops and relocate shelters



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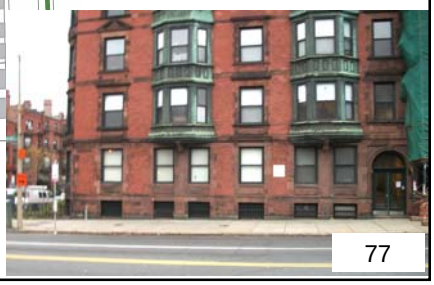
Mass Ave @ Beacon Street

Retain Stops, Investigate signal improvements



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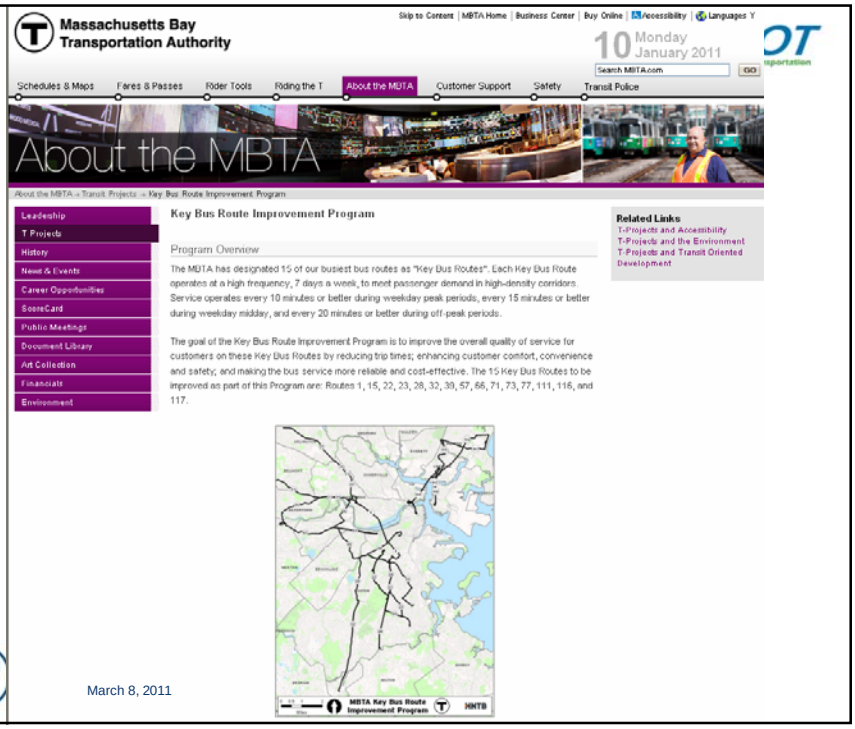
Summary of Preliminary Recommendations

- Add benches, trash receptacles, pavement markings, shelters
- Stops lengthened for accessibility
- Stops relocated
- Stops Consolidated
  - Current Stop Plan 35 IB/34 OB
  - Proposed Stop Plan 25 IB/25 OB
- Investigating traffic signal improvements
- Sidewalk Improvements

Public Outreach



Overall Project Schedule

KEY BUS ROUTE	MUNICIPALITIES SERVED	PLANNING BEGINS
23	Boston	Underway
39	Boston	Underway
1	Boston/Cambridge	January 2011
57	Boston/Newton/Watertown	January 2011
66	Boston/Brookline/Cambridge	January 2011
111	Boston/Chelsea/Revere	February 2011
116/117	Boston/Chelsea/Revere	February 2011
71	Cambridge/Watertown	March 2011
73	Cambridge/Belmont	March 2011
77	Arlington/Cambridge	March 2011
15	Boston	April 2011
22	Boston	April 2011
28	Boston	Ongoing in coordination with RDM Transit Needs Study
32	Boston	April 2011

Comments and Next Steps

- Project Updates at www.mbta.com/keybusroutes
- Mail to Operations and Service Development, 45 High St, Boston, MA 02110
- Email to keybusroutes@mbta.com
- Next community meeting
  - Route 66: March 8, 2011 @ 6:30 PM
    Jackson Mann Community Center
- Discussion

Discussion

We want to hear from you!